

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8789

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4669

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: RATIONALIZATION REPORT TO MINISTERS

REF: A. STATE 250819

B. USNATO 6268

THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS TEXT OF MISSION COMMENTS SENT BY LETTER NOV 14 TO MEMBERS OF EWG ON INTERNATIONAL STAFF DRAFT RATIONALIZATION REPORT TO MINISTERS. BEGIN TEXT:

AS YOU WILL RECALL, YOU CIRCULATED ON NOVEMBER 7 A DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS (AC/281-WP(74)6) ON RATIONALIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF DEFENSE TASKS.

I NOTE THAT THE DRAFT REPORT CONTAINS SOME MINOR ERRORS. THE REFERENCE IN PARAGRAPH 2 TO "F 14 AIRCRAFT" SHOULD BE "F 15 AIRCRAFT" AND THE WORD "STANDARDIZATION" IN SUBPARAGRAPH 6(C) SHOULD INSTEAD BE "RATIONALIZATION". ALSO, AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE NETHERLANDS' DECISION TO PROCURE WILL REQUIRE REWORDING
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OF THE LAST PART OF PARAGRAPH 2.

IN CONSIDERING THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT REPORT, HOWEVER, MY AUTHORITIES SEE IMPORTANT AREAS REQUIRING

AMPLIFICATION OR REVISION.

THE FIRST OF THESE IS THE REPORT OF THE LOGISTICS SUB-GROUP WHICH, AS THE PRESENT DRAFT REPORT POINTS OUT, SHOULD BE THE STARTING POINT OF THE LOC STUDY. BECAUSE OF THE PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS, THE EWG HAS NOT COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF THE LOGISTICS REPORT ALTHOUGH THE DPC INDICATED TO MINISTERS IN JUNE (DPC/D(74)13) THAT WE WOULD DO SO. IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE JUNE MINISTERIAL (PO/74/93), THE SECRETARY GENERAL ALSO NOTED THAT THE EWG "CAN CONTINUE ITS WORK ON THE REPORT OF THE LOGISTICS SUB-GROUP". THE LOGISTICS REPORT CONTAINS SEVERAL AREAS IN ADDITION TO THE LOC WHICH WARRANT FURTHER EWG DISCUSSION AND THE "CURRENT SITUATION" SECTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE MENTION OF THE LOGISTICS REPORT AS A PIECE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS. THE SAME MIGHT APPLY TO THE SACLANT/CINCHAN REPORT.

MY AUTHORITIES ALSO FEEL THAT THE BODY OF THE DRAFT STATUS REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE BROADER DISCUSSION OF EWG'S WORK SINCE JUNE. IN PARTICULAR, THE DRAFT REPORT SHOULD OUTLINE OR SUMMARIZE THE INITIAL REPORT FROM THE EURO TRAINING/NATO TRAINING GROUP AND INCLUDE AN INITIAL EVALUATION OF THE PROSPECTS OR PLANS FOR FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF TRAINING. PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE DRAFT REPORT SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE REPORTING DATES FOR ALL THREE STUDIES COMMISSIONED TO DATE. FURTHER, THIS SECTION SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT EWG INVESTIGATION OF OTHER CANDIDATE AREAS IS CONTINUING.

CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT (PARAGRAPH 6), THE PRESENT IMPLICATION IS THAT THE EWG IS PASSING THE INITIATIVE TO MINISTERS IN IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL AREAS. MY AUTHORITIES QUESTION THE UTILITY OF RECOMMENDING TO MINISTERS THAT THEY INSTRUCT THEIR STAFFS TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE THREE STUDIES SO FAR INITIATED. THIS LANGUAGE CARRIES THE CONNOTATION THAT THIS IS NOT NOW THE CASE. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, MY AUTHORITIES FEEL THAT THE FINAL SECTION OF THE STATUS REPORT SHOULD RECOMMEND TO MINISTERS THAT THEY (A) NOTE PROGRESS TO DATE AND PLANS FOR CONTINUING WORK; AND
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(B) CALL FOR FURTHER REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE SPRING 1975 MINISTERIAL MEETING.
END TEXT.
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